

The Pacific Commercial Advertiser

U. S. WEATHER BUREAU, October 11.—Last 24 hours' rainfall, .00.
Temperature, Max. 80; Min. 70. Weather, fair.



ESTABLISHED JULY 2, 1856.

SUGAR.—96 Degree Test Centrifugals, 3.34c.; Per Ton, \$78.80.
88 Analysis Beets, 9s. 7½d.; Per Ton, \$80.20.

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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1907.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LOCAL INSURANCE RATES ARE NOT EXTORTIONATE

Merchant's Association Find That Savings Can Be Made by Studying the Insurance Rules.

The merchants of Honolulu, according to the findings of a special committee of the Merchants' Association, are not paying too high a rate for their fire insurance, although the average rate paid here is above the ordinary on the mainland. This is accounted for by the high rates charged by all the companies on their risks throughout Chinatown.

For some time the committee has been investigating the subject, and although their findings are not going to bring about any reduction in the insurance rates just at present, the result will be a considerable saving to the Honolulu merchants in the fact that the investigation has brought to the attention of the merchants ways in which the rates in individual instances can be brought down by observing hitherto unheeded conditions in their policies.

The matter of insurance rates was brought before the association through the efforts of James Wakefield, of Davies & Co., who prepared statements and statistics showing that the rates here were too high and the profits of the insurance companies for the past four years excessive. In the past four years, according to Mr. Wakefield's figures, the premium revenues for 1903-4-5-6 totalled \$1,529,225 while the losses only amounted to \$468,626, the net earnings, deducting reserve, operating expenses and losses being 43.28 per cent. of the premiums. The average rate during these four years in Honolulu have been 1.80 per cent., while the average throughout the United States for the past thirteen years has been only 1.05.

In a carefully prepared statement, Mr. Wakefield found that the Honolulu Fire Department is remarkably efficient and its equipment up-to-date. He finds that the water supply is adequate and reliable, the gravity system being well supplemented by the pumping system.

THE COMMITTEE REPORT.

While admitting the correctness of the statistics presented by Mr. Wakefield, the committee in its findings differed greatly from him in its conclusions. The report was:

"Honolulu, September 16, 1907.
"George W. Smith, President Merchants' Association, Honolulu.

"Dear Sir:—Your committee on Trade and Finance, to whom was referred some Statements and Statistics, compiled by Mr. James Wakefield, relative to fire insurance rates, beg leave to report as follows:

"These Statements and Statistics which are attached hereto and marked A, B, C, D, purport to show that during the last four years the profits from

premiums in the Territory have been abnormal and out of all proportion for the prosecution of fire insurance on a "reasonably" profitable basis.

"It is also stated that owing to these facts the Merchants' Association should request the Board of Underwriters of Honolulu to forthwith make a substantial reduction of fire insurance rates. This committee regrets that they are unable to favor this plan and do not believe the present rates to be excessive under the circumstances.

"The method of rating risks, adopted by the Board of Underwriters of this Territory and which seems, as far as this committee is aware, to be similar to the method in use in the larger cities of the Pacific Coast, is to start with a basis or key rate of 1 per cent.

"This basis is fixed on what are known as standard commercial buildings, built of brick, stone or concrete, and which comply with certain building requirements fixed by the Underwriters. Why this basis rate of 1 per cent was adopted we do not know and have been unable to find out, but it is the same rate that prevails in most Pacific Coast cities and was the rate in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake. It is also the same rate prevailing in many Eastern cities.

"To this basis rate is added or deducted, as the case may be, certain charges for deficiencies or improvements from or to the "standard," and right here is where, by a little attention to details, Honolulu property owners can obtain substantial reductions in their rates, at no great outlay, by meeting the requirements of the Board of Underwriters.

"There are several buildings in Honolulu paying less than the basis rate of 1 per cent by having complied with the requirements and out their property in good shape. This basis rate does not appear to your committee to be unfair when everything is taken into consideration.

"The history of a city should, of course, be considered in the calculation of its rates, but not to an extent that some imagine. The structural excellence or deficiency, the amount of water available, and the completeness of the system of handling it, the nearness or absence of other cities that can aid in the extinction of a large fire, the discipline of the department, etc., each of these items enters into the calculation more forcefully than does the fire history of a city.

"In line with the statement which we have made that the basis rate does not appear to be excessive under the circumstances, your committee have satisfied themselves that the City of Honolulu is a hazardous risk. First, because the fire limits are too circumscribed, and apparently efforts to extend them are fruitless.

"Frame buildings are rapidly being erected where they should never be allowed, and constitute a rapidly increasing menace to the safety of the city.

"Many of our best buildings, and some of them of recent construction, show glaring disregard for ordinary precautions against fire, if not a disregard of the building laws of the Territory.

"Our water supply is precarious. Our fire department is inadequate. It is effective and well handled as far as it goes, but unable to cope with a large conflagration.

"It has come to the notice of this committee that it has been difficult since the fire in San Francisco to obtain sufficient insurance on many of our local risks, and we have been told (Continued on Page Three.)

AUSTRIAN RULER LIES AT DEATH'S DOOR



EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEPH OF AUSTRIA, WHOSE CONDITION IS CRITICAL.

WALLACH MAY GET HIS TRIAL, BUT NOT THE ONE HE WANTS

Possibility of His Arrest Within a Few Days—He Offers to Furnish Attorney General With Whatever Evidence He Wants.

There is a strong probability now that Wallach will get the trial he has been asking for so long and so loudly. But his trial will be before a judge and jury. For some time, since the Wallach agitation has been recommenced, the police authorities have been searching for evidence upon which to lay a charge against him and land him on the reef out of the way of the politicians and the credulous Hawaiians, and now it is reported that the police have the evidence they need. The arrest of the healer may be expected within a few days.

Strange as it may appear, Wallach professes to be not afraid of arrest. Speaking of the matter a few days ago, after he had learned that he was being systematically trailed, he stated that arrest was one of the things that was troubling him least, at least an arrest for practicing medicine without a license. He even offered to supply the Attorney General with evidence upon which to prosecute him.

"I don't see why the Attorney General should be wasting the money of the taxpayers by having me watched or in searching for evidence. If he wants evidence that I have practiced medicine I will get it for him. All he will have to do is to ask me for it. I will show him cases I have cured and I will go into court and state that if curing such cases is a crime I am willing to suffer the consequences."

WALLACH MAY LEAVE.
If Wallach is to be arrested, however, it may have to be soon, for last night he announced that he had received an offer from Japan which he might accept.

"I have almost grown discouraged here," he said. "I am pretty well convinced now that the Board of Health are not going to let me cure any of the lepers and I may go to Japan."

Yesterday Dr. Mikishido of Nagasaki arrived here, bringing me a message of an offer from Dr. Russel, who used to be in Hilo and who is now in Nagasaki, practicing medicine and editing the Russian paper Liberty. For some time Dr. Russel has been using my hook worm remedy in Japan, where the doctors have been making the same mistake the doctors here are making and treating cases of hook worm as consumption. He has been having great success with the remedy (Continued on Page Seven.)

His Passing Away May Cause Much Political Unrest in Europe.

(Associated Press Cablegrams.)

VIENNA, October 12.—The condition of the Emperor is critical.

Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, who is critically ill, has been the personal factor that has held together the dual kingdom of Austro-Hungary. It has long been said that the coalition of the two countries will dissolve at his death, and the political conditions throughout Europe may be seriously disturbed.

SANTA FE IS FOUND GUILTY OF REBATING

LOS ANGELES, October 12.—The Santa Fe railroad has been found guilty by the Federal jury of rebating. The maximum fine that may be imposed is a million dollars, and the minimum fine is six hundred thousand.

REVOLUTIONISTS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

HAYTI, October 12.—Sixteen of the leaders in the recent attempt to overthrow the government of the Haytian republic were yesterday condemned to death.

WILL ENTERTAIN PASSENGERS.

NEW YORK, October 11.—It was announced here today that hereafter vaudeville stars of Europe and America, while traveling from one continent to the other to fill engagements, will play nightly aboard the Atlantic steamships.

CHICAGO WINS AGAIN.

DETROIT, October 11.—The local team scored 1 to Chicago's 6 in the championship of the world series of baseball games, of which today's was the fourth.

MASSACRE OF DUTCH SOLDIERS.

VICTORIA, B. C., October 11.—A report has been received here today from Batavia to the effect that the natives of Celebes in an ambush have massacred Lieutenant Mathes and eighteen Dutch soldiers.

ANTI-ORIENTAL MEETING.

SEATTLE, Wash., October 11.—The Japanese and Korean Exclusion League has called a convention for November 12.

FUNDS FOR SIBERIAN COLONY.

ST. PETERSBURG, October 11.—Nine and a half million dollars have been appropriated for the colonization of Siberia.

CHINESE MARRIES JAPANESE WIDOW

**And a Filipino a Hawaiian—
Day of International Alliances.**

A somewhat unusual international marital alliance was celebrated in Honolulu the other day. A Chinese man married a Japanese woman. According to the return of the officiating clergyman, Rev. E. W. Thwing, to the Registrar of Vital Statistics, the groom is a native of China, Lau Sang, 48 years of age. The bride is a native of Japan, her father Sho Bei and her mother Oyami, her own name Katsu, 26 years of age, and the widow of Ku Shiek Sun, who, if one may judge by the name, was also a Chinese, or possibly a Korean.

Registrar Lawrence says that he recalls but one other case in these islands of a marriage between a Chinese and a Japanese.

Rev. James A. Rath reports the marriage of a Filipino, Peter Tai, aged 33 years, and Rose James, a Hawaiian, aged 18.

Hawaiian Japanese Cannot Enter Canada

The Jiyu Shimbun received an important dispatch from its special correspondent in Tokio yesterday, to the effect that the Japanese government has agreed tacitly with the officials of the Canadian government that any action on the part of the latter in refusing admission to Japanese laborers coming from Hawaii would not be regarded as any breach of the treaty existing between Japan and Great Britain, to which Canada is a consenting party.

This agreement between the two governments will summarily put a stop to any more immigration transportation schemes on the part of the local Japanese hotel keepers and their supporting huns and will give a permanency to the local labor supply such as Hawaii has not had for years. Debarred from landing in either Canada or the mainland of the United States, the local Japanese laborers will have only Mexico to turn to in preference to settling down here.

The dispatch in full will be published in the Jiyu this morning, Editor Sheba giving out the tenor of it in advance because of the importance of the news to the English speaking portion of the community.